



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

May 02, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).

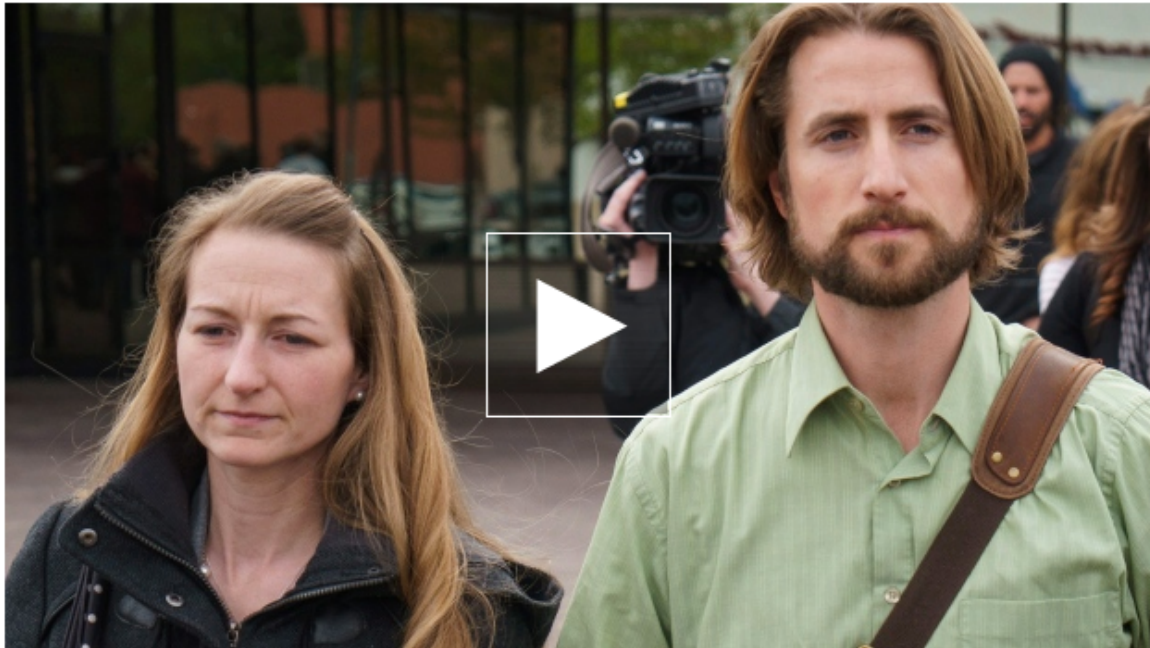


Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plans prepared by Deidre Lake, [Communication4Integration Inc.](#)

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NEWSCAST 1

ALBERTA PARENTS CONVICTED IN TODDLER'S MENINGITIS DEATH



Parents convicted in toddler's meningitis death 1:42

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/meningitis-trial-verdict-1.3552941>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Do you know what bacterial meningitis is? Did you hear about this story?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the vocabulary below before listening to the newscast.

convicted	found guilty of a criminal offense
packed	crowded; full; well attended
erupted	broke out
accused	charged with an offense or crime
guilty	responsible for a wrongdoing
testified	claimed; stated
croup	infection causing difficulty breathing
naturopath	a person that practices alternative medicine based on a theory that diseases can be treated without drugs
remedies	treatment for diseases or injury
prompting	persuading; encouraging
prosecutor	lawyer who conducts the case against the accused

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

A packed _____ in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of _____ their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found _____.

David and Collet Stephan were _____ with " _____ to provide the necessities of life" after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012.

The couple _____ they believed Ezekiel had croup or the flu. They sought _____ from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot _____, garlic, onions and horseradish.

He eventually stopped breathing, _____ the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was _____ to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.

The prosecutor said this case was "incredibly _____" and said, "They definitely _____ their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't _____. Parents still have to follow the standard of _____ that is set by the criminal law."

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Now that you are familiar with this story, click play on the image to watch the video of this story.

CONCLUSION

What do you think of this story?

NEWSCAST 2

EARLS RESTAURANTS' DECISION TO DROP ALBERTA BEEF PROVOKES BACKLASH



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/earls-alberta-beef-1.3556565>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Have you ever been to Earls restaurant? If yes, did you like it? Why or why not? Do you think it is important for restaurants to use local food when possible? Why or why not?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the following words and their definitions before listening to the newscast.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
announcement	a public statement
chain	a group of restaurants owned by the same company
certified humane	humanely raised animals for food e.g. cage-free chickens/eggs
humane	having compassion for others or animals; kind; considerate
provoke	cause a strong reaction or emotion
fast and furious	very rapidly; lively and exciting
backlash	a strong and negative reaction by a large number of people
intensive	In-depth; rigorous; thorough
flagship	the best or most important; top-of-the-line; premium
supply and demand	the amount of a product available and the buyers for it
portion of	a piece of something
sit well with someone	a situation or idea that is acceptable or liked

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

sit well with intensive	flagship humane	provoke announcement	backlash chain
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1. The Canadian Danier Leather _____ of stores is closing.
2. His business idea didn't _____ her.
3. They did _____ research before making their decision.
4. Earls used certified humane beef from Alberta in their _____ stores.
5. There are several organizations that promote _____ treatment of animals and wildlife.
6. When Earls made a public _____ that they were planning on using a US supplier, there was a _____.
7. He says those things as he is trying to _____ you.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 1:25)

Listen to the newscast for overall comprehension. Use the space below to take notes.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 1:25)

Listen to the newscast again. This time follow along with the script below

SCRIPT

An announcement last week that the Vancouver-based restaurant chain Earls is moving to Certified Humane beef — meaning the chain would be moving away from Canadian beef — provoked a fast and furious backlash.

The company said it tried to use Alberta beef, but there was not enough of a certain type of the meat to meet the restaurant chain's new criteria.

"We did intensive research and testing for over two years trying to use a Certified Humane beef from Alberta, raised without antibiotics, steroids or growth hormones, of which there are some great suppliers in Canada — and we did use it in our Edmonton and Calgary locations as well as our flagship locations across Canada for well over two years," the chain said in a statement.

It continues saying, "However, there was (and is) simply not enough Certified Humane, antibiotic-steroid-free beef in Alberta to meet the volume we use, and those we tried were unable to consistently meet our supply needs, not even a portion of it."

Earls will instead go with a U.S. supplier. That didn't sit well with some in Alberta.

CONCLUSION

This story was shared over 13,000 times. Many people are saying they will never go to Earls again. Why do you think this story made many Canadians upset?

NEWSCAST 3

CHILDREN, MEDICAL STAFF AMONG THOSE KILLED IN AIRSTRIKES IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO



A man removes supplies from the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Aleppo after it was hit by airstrikes.



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/airstrikes-aleppo-hospital-1.3556632>

LANGUAGE LEVEL: Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) **4/5** or equivalent

WARM UP QUESTIONS

What have you heard about Syria recently? Look at the pictures. How do these pictures make you feel?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1 (Audio Clip 2:56)

Listen to the newscast. While you listen, follow along with the script below.

A wave of airstrikes and shelling killed more than 60 people in less than 24 hours in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, activists said Thursday. The city is one of the main battlegrounds of Syria's devastating civil war.

At least 27 people died as a hospital supported by Doctors Without Borders and the International Committee for the Red Cross and nearby buildings were hit overnight in the rebel-held part of Aleppo.

The head of the Syrian National Coalition says Russians are violating the ceasefire agreement by "committing crimes and massacres across Syria, especially in Idlib and Aleppo City."

Since April 19, nearly 200 people have died, including at least 44 in an airstrike on a market place in a rebel-held area as well as dozens of civilians in government-held areas from rebel shelling.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the vocabulary below used in the newscast.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
a wave of something	a sudden increase in something (an action or feeling)
airstrikes	an attack made by aircraft
shelling	bombard with shells; attacks
activists	people trying to bring about political or social change
battlegrounds	a place of conflict
devastating	highly destructive or damaging
civil war	a war between citizens of the same country
rebel	a person against an established government or ruler
violating	breaking a formal agreement
ceasefire	an order to stop fighting
massacres	deliberately and violently kill a large number of people

Listen to the newscast again after reviewing the vocabulary if you wish.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

ALBERTA PARENTS CONVICTED IN TODDLER'S MENINGITIS DEATH

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2 (Audio Clip 0:10)

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

A packed **courtroom** in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of **letting** their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found **guilty**.

David and Collet Stephan were **charged** with " **failing** to provide the necessities of life" after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012.

The couple **testified** they believed Ezekiel had croup or the flu. They sought **advice** from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot **peppers**, garlic, onions and horseradish.

He eventually stopped breathing, **prompting** the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was **flown** to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.

The prosecutor said this case was "incredibly **sad**" and said, "They definitely **loved** their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't **enough**. Parents still have to follow the standard of **care** that is set by the criminal law."

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

EARLS RESTAURANTS' DECISION TO DROP ALBERTA BEEF PROVOKES BACKLASH

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

sit well with intensive	flagship humane	provoke announcement	backlash chain
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1. The Canadian Danier Leather _____ of stores is closing.
2. His business idea didn't _____ her.
3. They did _____ research before making their decision.
4. Earls used certified humane beef from Alberta in their _____ stores.
5. There are several organizations that promote _____ treatment of animals and wildlife.
6. When Earls made a public _____ that they were planning on using a US supplier, there was a _____.
7. He says those things as he is trying to _____ you.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of May 2nd.	0:00
Newscast 1 (Local) ALBERTA PARENTS CONVICTED IN TODDLER'S MENINGITIS DEATH http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/meningitis-trial-verdict-1.3552941	<p>A packed courtroom in Lethbridge erupted with emotion on Tuesday afternoon, after two parents accused of letting their son die from bacterial meningitis, were found guilty.</p> <p>David and Collet Stephan were charged with "failing to provide the necessities of life" after their 19-month-old son Ezekiel died in March 2012.</p> <p>The couple testified they believed Ezekiel had croup or the flu. They sought advice from a naturopath. They treated him for 2½ weeks with remedies that included hot peppers, garlic, onions and horseradish.</p> <p>He eventually stopped breathing, prompting the couple to call 911. Ezekiel was flown to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary where he died.</p> <p>The prosecutor, said this case was "incredibly sad" and said "They definitely loved their son, but unfortunately, sometimes love just isn't enough. Parents still have to follow the standard of care that is set by the criminal law."</p>	0:10

<p>Newscast 2 (National)</p> <p>EARLS RESTAURANTS' DECISION TO DROP ALBERTA BEEF PROVOKES BACKLASH</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/earls-alberta-beef-1.3556565</p>	<p>An announcement last week that the Vancouver-based restaurant chain Earls is moving to Certified Humane beef — meaning the chain would be moving away from Canadian beef — provoked a fast and furious backlash.</p> <p>The company said it tried to use Alberta beef, but there was not enough of a certain type of the meat to meet the restaurant chain's new criteria.</p> <p>"We did intensive research and testing for over two years trying to use a Certified Humane beef from Alberta, raised without antibiotics, steroids or growth hormones, of which there are some great suppliers in Canada — and we did use it in our Edmonton and Calgary locations as well as our flagship locations across Canada for well over two years," the chain said in a statement.</p> <p>It continues saying, "However, there was (and is) simply not enough Certified Humane, antibiotic-steroid-free beef in Alberta to meet the volume we use, and those we tried were unable to consistently meet our supply needs, not even a portion of it."</p> <p>Earls will instead go with a U.S. supplier. That didn't sit well with some in Alberta.</p>	<p>1:25</p>
<p>Newscast 3 (International)</p> <p>CHILDREN, MEDICAL STAFF AMONG THOSE KILLED IN AIRSTRIKES IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO</p> <p>http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/airstrikes-aleppo-hospital-1.3556632</p>	<p>A wave of airstrikes and shelling killed more than 60 people in less than 24 hours in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, activists said Thursday. The city is one of the main battlegrounds of Syria's devastating civil war.</p> <p>At least 27 people died as a hospital supported by Doctors Without Borders and the International Committee for the Red Cross and nearby buildings were hit overnight in the rebel-held part of Aleppo.</p> <p>The head of the Syrian National Coalition says Russians are violating the ceasefire agreement by "committing crimes and massacres across Syria, especially in Idlib and Aleppo City."</p> <p>Since April 19, nearly 200 people have died, including at least 44 in an airstrike on a market place in a rebel-held area as well as dozens of civilians in government-held areas from rebel shelling.</p>	<p>2:56</p>

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email Deidre Lake at info@communication4Integration.ca